

Washington Update

February 15, 2005

Table of Contents

1. Administration's FY 2006 Budget Cuts PHHS Block Grant and Other Programs
2. Draft Acute Injury Care Research Agenda Available for Comment by March 3, 2005
3. Trauma Reauthorization Bill Re-Introduced
4. NASEMSD Signs Letter on FY 2006 Public Health Agencies Program Funding
5. NASEMSD Comments on RITA
6. NASEMSD & NAEMSP Provide Joint Comments on Scope of Practice
7. FEMA Releases NIMS Compliance Assessment Tool
8. Advocates for EMS Elects New Officers
9. AAMS Provides Reference to Members
10. Century Foundation Releases Report on Bioterrorism Preparedness
11. USA Freedom Corps Celebrates Three Years
12. SAFECOM Web Site Now Available
13. Upcoming Events

1. Administration's FY 2006 Budget Cuts PHHS Block Grant and Other Programs

On Feb. 7, 2005, President Bush released the Administration's Fiscal Year 2006 budget. The budget request for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2006/pdf/appendix/hhs.pdf> . The budget proposes the complete elimination of the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHS). The PHHS Block Grant is the single largest source of federal funding to date for state EMS services. Specifically, the budget language stated that the Block Grant funding is "often duplicative and overlaps with other CDC programs." In addition, the budget is devastating for three additional key programs. The budget proposes to

eliminate all funding for HRSA's Trauma-EMS program;
eliminates all funding for HRSA and CDC Traumatic Brain
Injury programs; and eliminates funding for the Children's
EMS program.

2. Draft Acute Injury Care Research Agenda Available for Comment by March 3, 2005

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has
announced the availability of the Draft Acute Injury Care
Research Agenda for the National Center for Injury
Prevention and Control (NCIPC). Comments on the document
are being accepted until March 3, 2005. The notice is
available at

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a050203c.html
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a050203c.html> .
Suggested comments should be sent to Louise Goyette
(Louise.Goyette@state.ma.us
<<mailto:Louise.Goyette@state.ma.us>>) and Steve Hise
(hise@nasemsd.org <<mailto:hise@nasemsd.org>>) by Feb. 25,
2005, for consideration as part of the official NASEMSD
comment.

3. Trauma Reauthorization Bill Re-Introduced

Majority Senate Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) re-introduced the
Trauma Systems Planning and Development Act (S. 265) on
Feb. 2, 2005, and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions Committee marked it up without amendment on Feb.
9, 2005. The bill is exactly as passed by the Senate early
in the 108th Congress and provides \$12 million
authorization for the HRSA Trauma-EMS program. Eighty
percent of the funding is provided for state grants to
develop, improve and maintain their trauma care systems.
Ten percent is provided for improvement of rural EMS
services and ten percent is for other purposes. For bill
text or summary, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>
<<http://thomas.loc.gov/>> and query by bill number.

4. NASEMSD Signs Letter on FY 2006 Public Health Agencies and Programs Funding

More than 400 health organizations, including NASEMSD,
signed a letter to President Bush and Congress urging that

\$3.5 billion be provided for public health agencies and programs in FY 2006. "The health of all Americans is at risk from an unprecedented range of threats, including: chronic diseases and disabilities, infectious and food borne illnesses, biological and chemical terrorism, mental disorders and substance abuse, catastrophic injuries, and a shortage of healthcare providers and trained public health workers," states the letter. "Our nation's public health system will not be able to respond adequately to these threats without additional resources for the continuum of medical research, prevention, treatment and training programs. More information is available from Dr. Marcia Mabee, executive director, Coalition for Health Funding, at mmabee@ix.netcom.com <mailto:mmabee@ix.netcom.com> .

5. NASEMSD Comments on RITA

At the Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting on Jan. 10, 2005, the U.S. Department of Transportation Chief of Staff John Flaherty invited members of the transportation research community to share their thoughts on setting strategic directions for the new Research and Innovative Technologies Administration (RITA). NASEMSD provided formal comments on Feb. 8, 2005. According to the comments, NASEMSD views RITA as an important new contributor to the improvement of vehicular crash response and prevention and encourages leaders to work closely with NHTSA staff to help implement the recommendations of the "EMS Research Agenda for the Future" and other projects. "An effective partnership between RITA and NHTSA could well have a profound impact on public safety and transportation emergency response to, and prevention of, crashes as well as general response to major events involving transportation," NASEMSD concluded. For more information, contact NASEMSD's Kevin McGinnis at k.mcginnis@adelphia.net <mailto:k.mcginnis@adelphia.net> .

6. NASEMSD & NAEMSP Provide Joint Comments on Scope of Practice

NASEMSD and the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) provided joint comments on the Scope of Practice Draft 1.0. This document is to be a pivotal document in the future course of EMS system development in the United States. Both the implementation process that it delineates

and its content have the potential to further the innovative path charted by the "EMS Education Agenda for the Future." "The Task Force has created a commendable document in Draft 1.0," states the NASEMSD and NAEMSP comments. NASEMSD and NAEMSP provided comments on the process of implementation, content, and detail. For more information, contact NASEMSD's Kevin McGinnis at k.mcgininis@adelphia.net <<mailto:k.mcgininis@adelphia.net>> .

7. FEMA Releases NIMS Compliance Assessment Tool

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the NIMS Integration Center have released a Web-based self-assessment system that will allow federal, state, tribal and local departments and agencies to evaluate their incident preparedness and response capabilities. The voluntary system, the National Incident Management Compliance Assessment Support Tool (NIMCAST) also will help users determine what they need to do to comply with NIMS requirements. NIMCAST may be accessed via the NIMS home page at <http://www.fema.gov/nims> <<http://www.fema.gov/nims>> . For more information about NIMS and NIMCAST, email NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov <<mailto:NIMS-Integration-Center@dhs.gov>> .

8. Advocates for EMS Elects New Officers

Advocates for EMS has announced the election of officers. New officers are: President Mary Hedges, executive director for the Minnesota Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board; President-elect Nathan R. Williams, chief of the Columbia Fire Department in Columbia, Mo.; Treasurer Bruce Walz, associate professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Health Services at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Secretary Dia Gainor, state EMS director for Idaho; and Immediate Past President Jon Krohmer, MD, EMS medical director of Kent County (Mich.) EMS, Inc., in Grand Rapids, Mich. In addition to the officers, the following directors comprise the AEMS Board: Jay R. Bradshaw, director, Maine Emergency Medical Services; David C. Cone, MD, Yale School of Medicine; Bob O'Connor, MD, MPH, director of education and research, Department of Emergency Medicine at Christiana Care Health Systems in Delaware; Fergus Laughridge, supervisor, Nevada Emergency Medical Services; Shawn Rogers, director, Oklahoma

Emergency Medical Services; and Nathan R. Williams, Columbia Fire Department in Missouri. For more information, visit www.advocatesforems.org <<http://www.advocatesforems.org/>> .

9. AAMS Provides Reference to Members

The Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) is preparing its membership for media calls. To assist their members, a fact sheet, "Safety: What is our Response?" has been created. The fact sheet includes statistics on air transportation and safety. In addition, the risk versus the benefits of air medicine is examined in detail. For more details, email BBeggan@aams.org <<mailto:BBeggan@aams.org>> .

10. Century Foundation Releases Report on Bioterrorism Preparedness

After the anthrax attacks of fall 2001, Congress made the single largest investment in state and local public health capacities since World War II. A new report attempts to answer the question: "After spending almost \$3 billion to date on public health preparedness, how much better prepared are we for a terrorist attack? In the final report of the Working Group on Bioterrorism Preparedness, a group of leading public health policy experts and practitioners conclude that the new federal funding has resulted in considerable improvements to the U.S. public health system, but that substantial vulnerabilities remain. The group found that without clearer definitions of what constitutes preparedness and standards for achieving it, the infusion of funds may not succeed in enabling the public health system to respond effectively to a future bioterrorist attack. The report is available from the Century Foundation at <http://www.tcf.org> <<http://www.tcf.org/>> .

11. USA Freedom Corps Celebrates Three Years

USA Freedom Corps was established on Jan. 29, 2002, to help strengthen and expand volunteer service opportunities across the country and around the world. Since that time there has been a tremendous increase in volunteer service

among Americans. In 2002, about 58.8 million Americans volunteered. In 2003, the number increased to about 63.8 million and in 2004 to 64.5 million. A complete fact sheet about USA Freedom Corps and its accomplishments is available at

http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/content/about_usafc/newsroom/announcements_dynamic.asp?ID=856

<http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/content/about_usafc/newsroom/announcements_dynamic.asp?ID=856> .

12. SAFECOM Web Site Now Available

The updated SAFECOM Web site now is available at

<http://www.safecomprogram.com>

<<http://www.safecomprogram.com/>> . The updated site makes a number of resources available to the public safety community, including SAFECOM documents, presentations, tools, and methodologies. The site will continue to be updated as new materials and resources are available.

13. Upcoming Events (denotes event is newly added)**

"Delivering Results: Improving Pregnancy & Birth," 2005 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference, Feb. 19-23, 2005, Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.amchp.org/conference>.

Homeland Defense Training Conference®: Medical Planning and Operations in Support of Consequence Management: "Managing the Un-thinkable in the Era of Asymmetrical Threats" - Preparing Healthcare Professionals for New Challenges in the Medical Arena, Feb. 24-25, 2005, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at http://www.marketaccess.org/event_consmgmt.asp
<http://www.marketaccess.org/event_consmgmt.asp> .

****"Leadership and Advocacy: 2005 AAMS Spring Conference**, March 16-19, 2005, Embassy Row Hilton, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.aams.org/midyear.html>.

Emergency Medical Services Response to Hazardous Material Incidents or Acts of Terrorism, March 18, 2005, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/EMSR.shtml>.

EMS Today Conference and Exposition, March 18-22, 2005, Philadelphia, Pa. Information is available at <http://www.emstodayconference.com>
<<http://www.amchp.org/conference>> .

****Bridging the Divide: Integrating Data into EMSC Injury Prevention Objectives**, May 4-6, 2005, Sheraton Chapel Hill Hotel, Chapel Hill, N.C. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/workshops/2005/bridging.htm>.

Injury and Violence in America: Meeting Challenges, Sharing Solutions, May 9-11, 2005, Denver, Colo. Information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/2005conference>.

28th Annual Conference of the National Rural Health Association, May 19-21, 2005, New Orleans, La. Information is available at <http://www.NRHArural.org/conf>.

NACCHO-ASTHO 2005 Joint Conference: "Reversing the Tide: Promoting Policies and Programs to Advance the Nation's Health", July 12-15, 2005, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://astho.org> <<http://astho.org/>> .

****Effective Grant Writing for EMSC Coordinators**, Aug. 18-19, 2005, National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center, Salt

Lake City, Utah. Information is available at
http://www.nedarc.org/workshops/2005/grant_SLC.htm.

****Effective Grant Writing for EMSC Coordinators**, Aug. 30-31, 2005, EMSC National Resource Center, Silver Spring, Md. Information is available at
http://www.nedarc.org/workshops/2005/grant_MD.htm.

****Analyzing and Presenting EMS Data Workshop**, Jan. 18-20, 2006, Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel, Anaheim, Calif. Information is available at
<http://www.nedarc.org/workshops/2005/excel.htm>.